



Idaho State Senate

SENATOR TODD LAKEY

10-19-20

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest
Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor
500 North Mission Street
McCall, ID 83638

Dear Ms. Jackson,

I am writing today to voice my support for Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project under consideration in the recently released draft Environmental Impact Statement. As a state legislator, it is critical that I work to support projects that will positively affect Idaho and its residents. Midas Gold Idaho has proposed a project that will offer both economic benefits and environmental reclamation in a historic region of the state.

The Stibnite Gold Project will offer a significant boost to many of Idaho's local economies. Midas Gold plans to employ between 500 – 1,000 employees during the project's construction phase which means high-skilled and good-paying job opportunities for Idahoans from across the state. Increased employment and activity by this company will also mean increased tax revenues that will be directly inserted into these communities. In fact, Highland Economics, an independent economic consulting firm that analyzed the project estimates nearly \$450 million in income tax revenues will be generated during the project's 20 year lifespan. These tremendous economic impacts and the benefits of the propose reclamation are why the Stibnite Gold Project must be approved and advanced.

Midas Gold has put a great deal of emphasis on environmental stewardship as outlined in the project's proposal. Historically less stringent regulations of past mining activity in this region left the environment in an undesirable condition. This project however will remedy past harm done to the environment through private investment. Midas' commitment to the reclamation process is evidenced by the Plan of Restoration and Operations which outlines provisions to protect local salmon populations and aid in reforestation efforts.

Idaho needs the private investment like what Midas Gold has proposed. I encourage you to consider my comments during the review process and hope you will accept Alternative 2 outlined in the draft Environmental Impact Statement and allow the project to proceed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Lakey".

Todd Lakey
Idaho State Senator, District 12